



US006704713B1

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Brett**(10) **Patent No.: US 6,704,713 B1**(45) **Date of Patent: \*Mar. 9, 2004**(54) **COMPUTER CONTROLLED EVENT TICKET AUCTIONING SYSTEM**

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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Cathay Pacific Airways auctions a Boeing 747-400 worth of seats in third Cybertraveler Auction; "Bid Now, Fly Later" In Online Ticket Auction. Business Wire—Apr. 29, 1996—4 pages.

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(List continued on next page.)

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 327 days.

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This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

(57) **ABSTRACT**(21) Appl. No.: **09/586,927**(22) Filed: **Jun. 5, 2000****Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation of application No. PCT/US00/03136, filed on Feb. 7, 2000, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 08/862,547, filed on May 23, 1997, now Pat. No. 6,023,685.

(60) Provisional application No. 60/108,211, filed on May 23, 1996.

(51) **Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup>** ..... **G06F 17/60**(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **705/37; 705/35; 705/26; 705/5**(58) **Field of Search** ..... **705/35, 37, 38, 705/26, 5**(56) **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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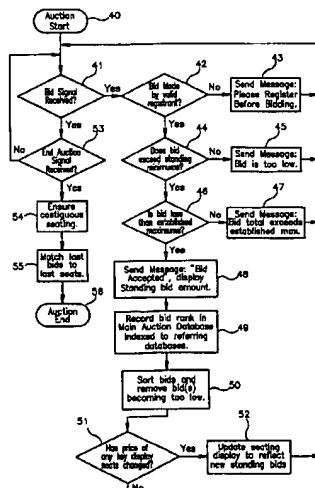
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**18 Claims, 16 Drawing Sheets**

US-PAT-NO: **6704713**

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6704713 B1

TITLE: Computer controlled event ticket auctioning system

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**6704713**

Detailed Description Text - DETX (5):

Referring again to FIG. 1, a master computer 11 is connected to the central computer 12 for purposes of setting up, initiating, monitoring and dismantling the auction, and its related sites or pages. For example, in preparation for an auction, numerous details specific to that auction, such as minimum initial bids, event and sponsor names, dates and times, and seating arrangements are generated using the master computer 11 and then transferred by disk or modem or

other means to the central computer 12 when needed. The central computer 12 stores these parameters for later application to the auction process. In particular, the central computer 12 stores in the seating database 17, the specific seating arrangement as a unique record for each seat available. The auction is then conducted by the central computer 12, as described below.

During the **auction**, the master computer 11 can be used to monitor the **auction** progress, make any necessary spontaneous **changes** to existing **parameters**, and to

generally ensure that the **auction** is conducted with a minimum of problems. In practice, it may be possible to combine the functions of the central computer 12 and the Master computer 11.